


CHAOS!
COMICS



THE COVENANT
10 2.95
MONTHLY shaw001
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Lady Death[®]



14
MONTHS

**UNTIL
THE
END**



98
SDE
JFE

Lady Death

"The Covenant" 10

Story So Far

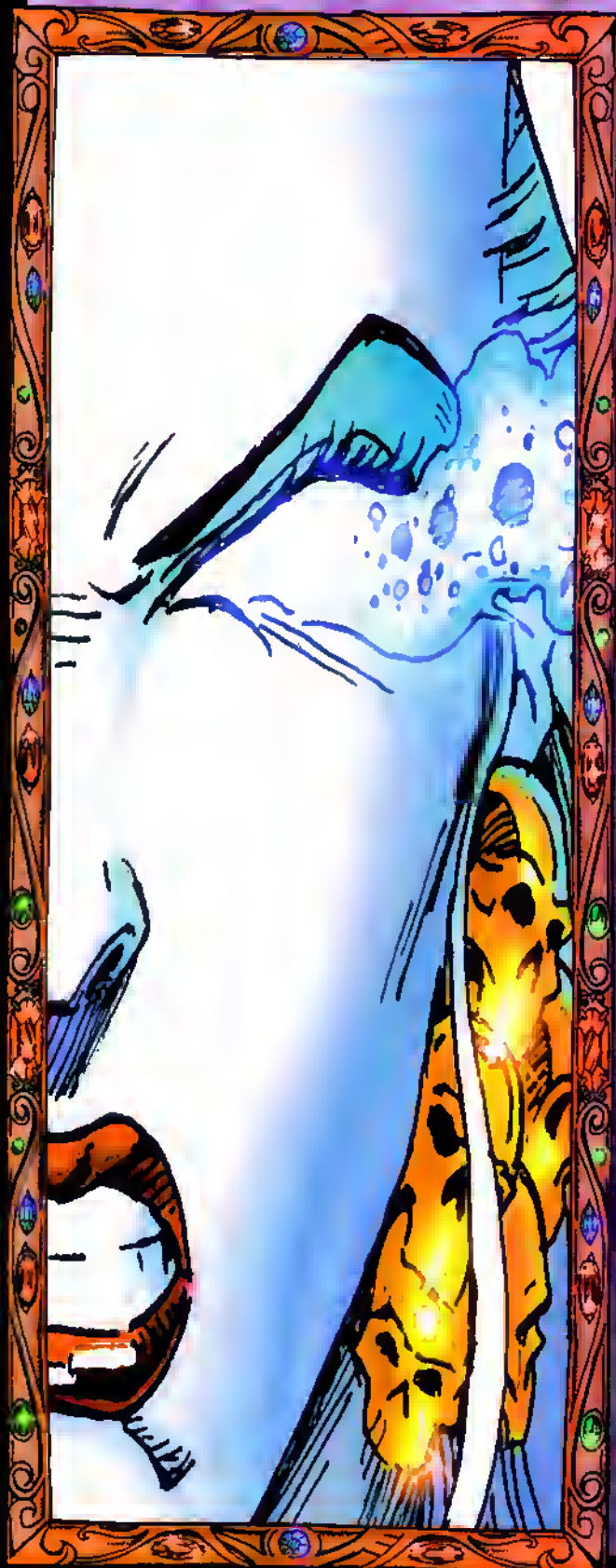
Lady Death reclaimed rule over a unified Hell -- but Hell was disintegrating! With no enemies to kill, how can she resist? Hell's mystic, Séance, teased her, hinting that she already possessed the power to save herself. The mysterious Eternal Scythe of the Covenant -- the Scythe of Death itself -- also taunted her, giving her visions of strange powers, beings and places that were now her responsibility! And the more Lady Death and her allies opposed the wave of eradication sweeping through Hell, the faster Hell disappeared! Meanwhile, in the swirling storm of energies within Heaven's Gate, the sorceress Leviatha and Fallen Angel Malady finally seized their prize -- the shattered fragments of Lord Lucifer!

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HELL.

CREMATOR REMEMBERS.
HIS COMMANDER'S
POWERFUL HAND GRIPPED
HIS MASSIVE SHOULDER.

CREMATOR,
TRUST ME -- I
HAVE ONE FINAL
CHANCE --

THEN THE PRIMAL
ENERGIES OF DEATH'S
ETERNAL SCYTHE
ENFOLDED CREMATOR,
VASSAGO, AND EVEN...

UGH!

LADY
DEATH!

THE ERADICATION
WAVE STRUCK.

LAST
ISSUE

HELL DISAPPEARED
BENEATH HIS FEET! ★

HE OPENS HIS
EYES IN THE
ENDLESS
GRAVEYARD!

CREMATOR
LET US IN!

INVISIBLE
FORCES SHUT
US OUT!

THE
WAVE OF
DESTRUCTION --
IT'S UPON
US!

YOU
ARE HELL'S
GUARDIAN!
SAVE US

GR
GRRR

WE'RE
ALIVE!

SOME-
HOW, MY LADY
KNEW HER ENDLESS
GRAVEYARD WOULD
BE LOST TO BE
DESTROYED. SHE
SENT US
HERE!

WHERE
IS LADY
DEATH?

YES,
WHERE IS SHE?
SHE HASN'T BEEN
HERSELF SINCE SHE
PICKED UP THE
SCYTHE OF DEATH --
BUT SHE MUST
HAVE A PLAN!

DON'T
YOU DARE
QUESTION
YOUR
QUEEN!

WHILE
YOU WHIMPER,
LADY DEATH
JOURNEYS TO
SAVE THIS LAST
PATCH OF
HELL!

FACE
YOUR FATE
LIKE
WARRIORS!



Oh, CREMATOR, WHAT A BRAVE SPEECH.

NO DOUBT THE SCUM OF HELL COULD RAVAGE LUCIFER HIMSELF AFTER THAT RANT!

BUT TELL ME, CRETIN... WHAT GAVE YOU THE IDEA I GIVE A DAMN ABOUT SAVING ANY OF YOU?

WHO'S THAT? WHO'S MOCKING...

SNORRIT

LOOK UP, DULL, GULLIBLE FOOL.

I HAVE MORE POWERFUL TOOLS AT MY DISPOSAL NOW. YOU AND THAT FOUL-SMELLING HORSE ARE EXPENDABLE.

THIS IS A LIE! YOU ARE NOT MY LADY!

WHO ARE
YOU? SHOW
YOURSELF!

ARRGHHH!

BUT THE ONLY REPLY
CREMATOR GETS FROM
THE MOVING MAUSOLEUM
STATUE OF THIS LADY
IS A BONE-GRINDING
SQUEEZE...

...AND AN EERIE LAUGH
THAT RINGS LIKE METAL
SCRAPING METAL!

SHOW
MYSELF?
DON'T YOU
KNOW
ME?

GRARR

WHY, I
WELCOME
YOU WITH OPEN
GRAVES!

I WILL
BREAK YOU
ANIMALS! I'LL
SAVOR YOUR
SWEET DESPAIR.
THEN BURY
YOU!

WHEN
I GET MY
HANDS ON
YOU --

YOU WILL
BURNNN ARRGHHH!

SNEEZE

MATTHIAS!

YES.
CREMATOR.
WHO ELSE WOULD
TELL YOU THE
TRUTH?

HELL IS
AS GOOD
AS GONE.

THE GREAT
LADY DEATH DID
WHAT SHE ALWAYS
DOES -- SAVE
HERSELF, SELL
OUT ALL OTHERS!

**ARRRRGH!
LIARR!**

YOU
SOLD HER OUT
WHEN SHE WAS
HOPE! YOU.
HER OWN
FATHER!*

*LADY DEATH:
THE RECKONING 2

THE
ONLY PLEASURE
IN SEEING YOU
ALIVE AGAIN,
MATTHIAS, IS
KNOWING I GET
TO KILL YOU!

YOU
CALL THIS
"ALIVE?"

MY SOUL'S
IMPRISONED IN
THIS MISERABLE
MESS OF STONES
AND BONES!

I'VE BEEN
STARVED FOR
COMPANY!

AFTER I BURROW INTO YOUR LITTLE BRAIN, WE'LL UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, EH?

YOU'LL UNDERSTAND HOW BLIND YOU'VE BEEN TO THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR SO-CALLED LADY!

REMEMBER, WHEN MY DEAR DAUGHTER HOPE FIRST INTRUDED INTO HELL, SHE HAD RENOUNCED HER HUMANITY.

BUT LUCIFER HAD NOT YET TRICKED HER INTO BECOMING LADY DEATH!

SHE STRUCK YOU FROM BEHIND.

SUCH A POWERFUL BEAST. I MUST HAVE HIM!

YOU TRIED TO RESIST, BUT THE WENCH'S PSYCHIC MAGIC, STOLEN FROM ME, MADE YOU WEAK!

UNHAND ME, SLAVE!

MUCH BETTER, NOW LET'S PUT YOUR MIGHTY BODY TO GOOD USE.

YOU SHOULD HAVE DOMINATED AND DEBASED HER.

BUT HOPE'S WILD LUST FOR POWER MADE YOU HEEL LIKE A DOG!

THAT'S NOT HOW IT HAPPENED!

NOOO!

4
OUTSIDE THE ENDLESS GRAVEYARD, THE PANIC OF THE CRUSHING MOB WOULD MAKE THANATOS LAUGH AND SHRUG -- IF HE STILL HAD SHOULDERS.

DON'T THEY GET IT? THIS IS IT! WE'RE ALL GOING OUT IN A KILLER-CLIMAX OF ANNIHILATION! WHY CAN'T THEY JUST ENJOY --

HEY, STEADY!

PAGAN!

WHAT A BUNCHA BIMBOS!

THEY CURSE THE DEATH DOLL WITH ONE BREATH. THEN PRAY "SAVE ME" TO HER WITH THE NEXT!

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY JOKER WHO SEES HELL AS A CARNIVAL RIDE. SON OF LUCIFER, YOU KNOW, THE ROAR OF THE GREASEPAINT, THE SMELL OF THE CROWD?

BUT THIS OLD CARNY'S NOT BLOWIN' TOWN WITHOUT SOLVENIRS!

WHAT?

HELL WILL RISE AGAIN, KIDDO. WHEN IT DOES, YOU'RE GONNA BE MY ACE IN THE HOLE. HAHA!



KEEP
THE SCYTHE
AWAY!

IF IT
TOUCHES US,
WE'LL ALL BE
OBLITERATED!

SILENCE!

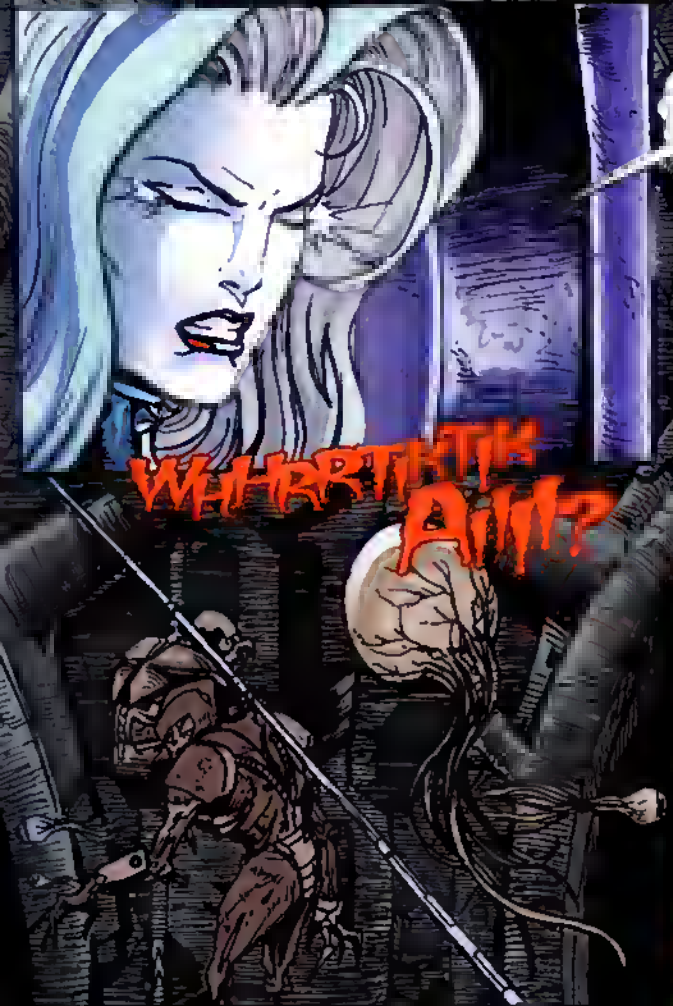
I WON'T BE A SLAVE
TO THE SCYTHE -- BUT I
AM EVEN MORE EAGER
TO RID MYSELF OF THE
NIGHTMARE SWORD!

SCYTHE
GODDESS!

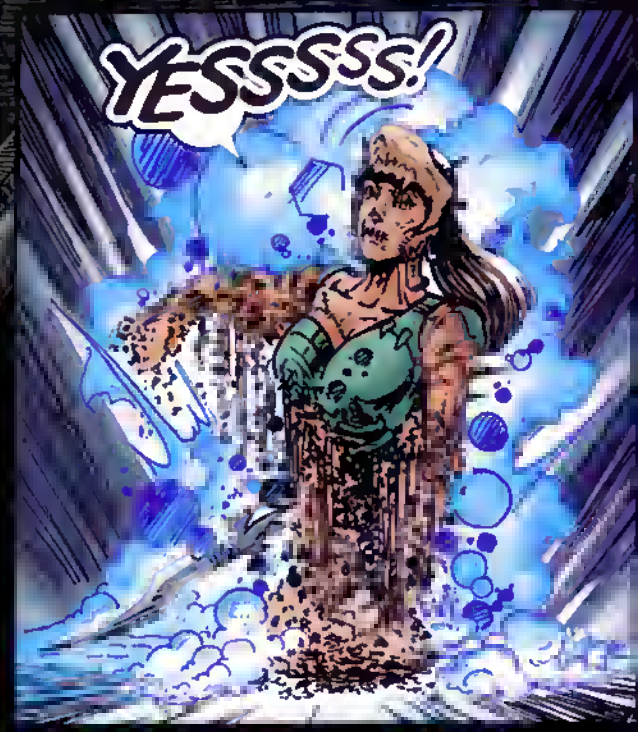
SHE WHO
IS DEATH.
GIVE ME
RELEASE!



Hmmm.
DEATH IS
RESPECTED
HERE



WHY RTTHK
AM I?



YESSSSS!

SUDDENLY...

DON'T
LET THE
SCYTHE TAKE
THESE!

WE ARE
STARVED FOR
BLOOD!

PLEASE!

SCYTHE
GODDESS
DEATH!

MERCIFUL
OBLIVION,
PLEASE!

I NEED A
RIGHTEOUS
WAR. NOT
THIS!

DEATH IS NOTHING BUT
A RESPONSIBILITY IN A
DOMAIN WHERE EVERY
SUFFERING CREATURE
WANTS TO DIE!

ANOTHER
PROPHETIC
VISION!

YES, YOU
ACCEPTED
RESPONSIBILITIES —
WHEN YOU ACCEPTED
THE SCYTHE.

BUT YOU
STILL HAVE
NOT ACCEPTED
DEATH!

WHAT? THOSE
RIDERS -- I KNOW
THEM!

I KNOW THIS! IT'S
EARTH! THE HOME
I'VE BEEN FORBIDDEN TO
TOUCH FOR CENTURIES!





COME ON, GET TO THE SLAUGHTER!

BLOODDD!

PERHAPS.

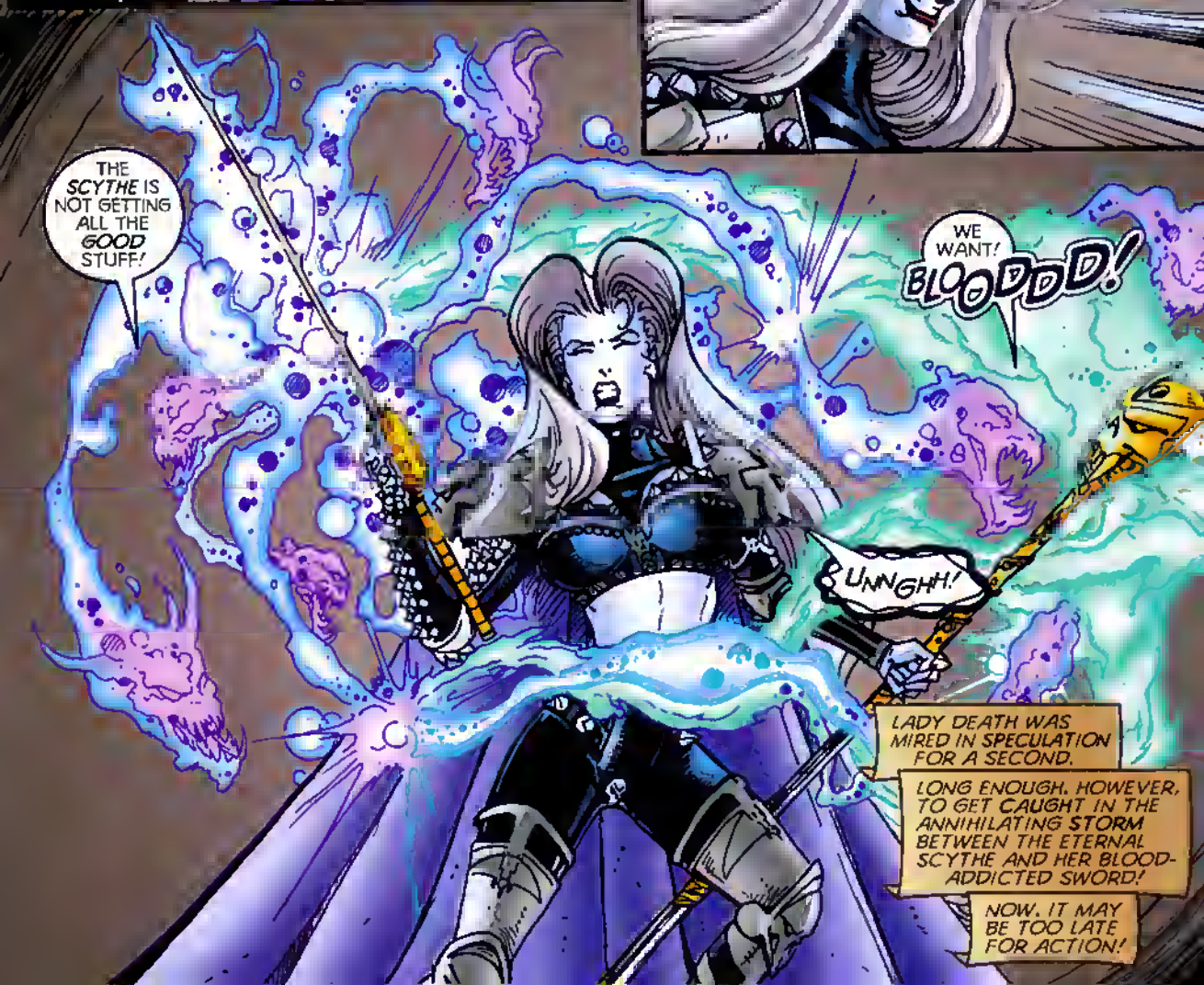
AS DEATH, ONLY AS DEATH ITSELF --



I COULD GO HOME, IN SPITE OF LUCIFER'S CURSE.



HEY! YOU DON'T HELP US, WE'RE GONNA HELP OURSELVES!



THE SCYTHE IS NOT GETTING ALL THE GOOD STUFF!

WE WANT!
BLOODDD!

SUNNGH!

LADY DEATH WAS MIERED IN SPECULATION FOR A SECOND.

LONG ENOUGH, HOWEVER, TO GET CAUGHT IN THE ANNIHILATING STORM BETWEEN THE ETERNAL SCYTHE AND HER BLOOD-ADDICTED SWORD!

NOW, IT MAY BE TOO LATE FOR ACTION!

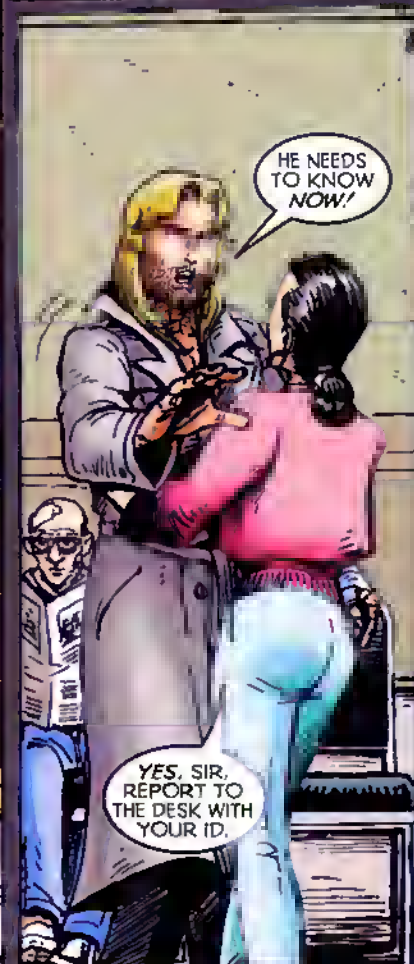
SAINT JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL
EMERGENCY SERVICES

EARTH.

MANY STRANGERS AND LOST SOULS WANDER THE STREETS OF LOS ANGELES.

THE HOLY CROSS! A CHURCH!

EMERGENCY



THIS
FRAGILE
BROKEN BODY
REMINDS ME OF
HOPE. THE SOUL
OF LADY
DEATH.

THE
WOMAN I LOVE.
THE REASON
I FELL TO
EARTH!
BE NOT
AFRAID --

BUKCOM

NOW YA
PAY ATTENTION.
Huh? NOW YA
NOTICE ME?
TOO LATE!

BEATRIZ!
WHERE THE
HELL ARE
YOU?

CALL
911!

Ohhhh...

DON'T
BOTHER
CALLIN'
911!

DID
SOMEONE CALL
911 WHEN THE
ADMINISTRATION
DECIDED TO
"RIGHT-SIZE" THREE
HUNDRED OF US OUT
OF JOBS? JUS'
THROW US
AWAY?

WHAT
ARE YOU
LOOKING AT,
JUNKIE?
BEATRIZ!

AND
ANGEL COULD
PREVENT A
MASSACRE.
HERE!

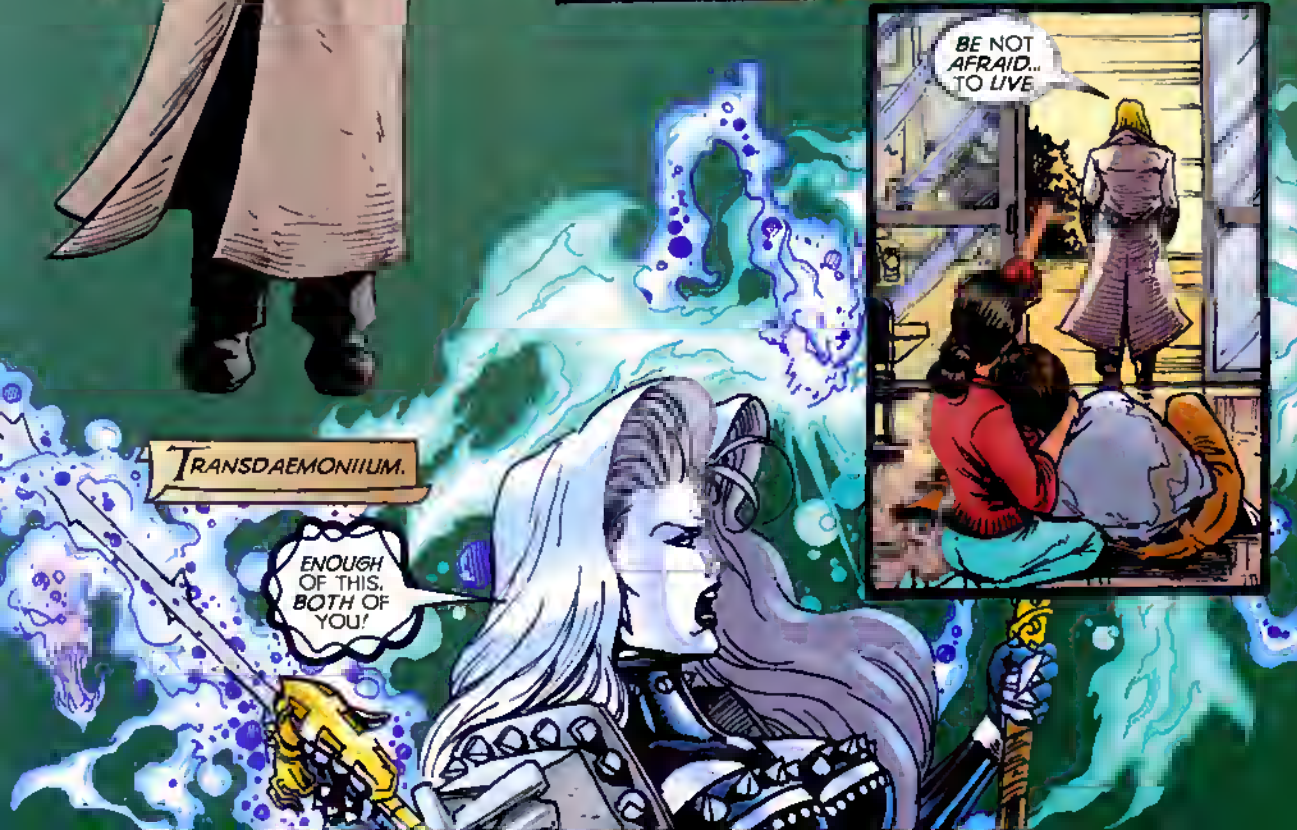
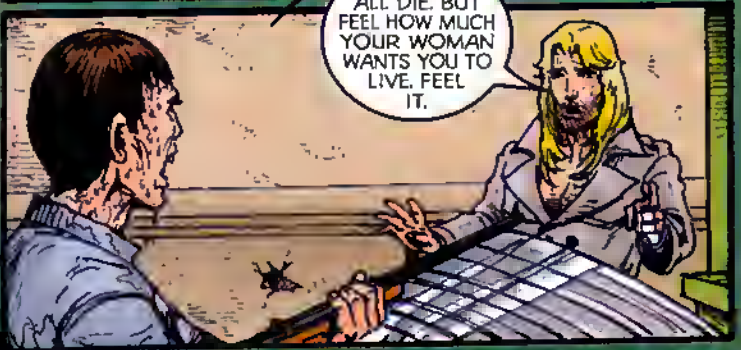
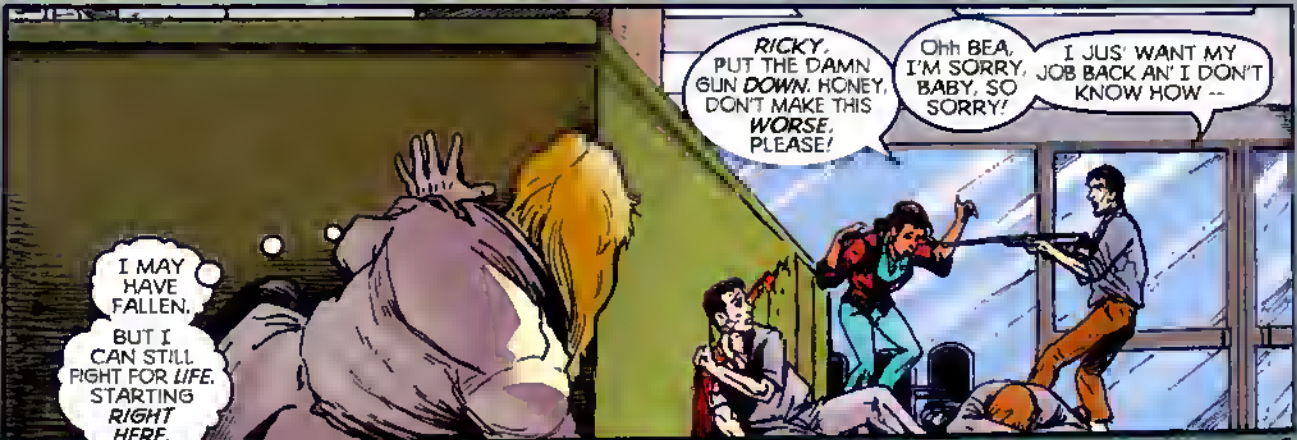
BUT I'M
JUST AS
DAMAGED AS
ALL THE OTHER
HUMANS!

I POUNDED
CITIES TO DUST!
I INCINERATED
ANGELS WITH A
THOUGHT!

BUKCOM

I CAN'T
DIE LIKE
THIS!

BEATRIZ!



TRANSDAEMONIUM.

ENOUGH OF THIS, BOTH OF YOU!

BE NOT AFRAID... TO LIVE

IF YOU,
NIGHTMARE, OR YOU,
SCYTHE OF DEATH, ASPIRE
TO CONQUER ANY
ANOTHER WORLD THAN
THIS MISBEGOTTEN
PLACE --

YOU
WILL
OBEY!

THE DIVA OF DEATH
WILLS HER INHUMAN
WEAPONS TO CEASE
SPARKING AGAINST
EACH OTHER -- FOR
NOW.

AND IN THE ENDLESS
GRAVEYARD,
CREMATOR MUST
SUMMON THAT SAME
RAW POWER!

GET OUT!
ARRAGRRGH!

HOPE
FROZE ME OUT
OF HER ICY LITTLE
HEART, LONG
AGO -- I
ADMIT IT!

YOU
WERE MERELY
HER LIVING
WEAPON, HER
TOOL!

ADMIT IT,
LITTLE MAN!
BEFORE WE ARE
ALL CONSUMED
BY ETERNITY!

YOU'LL
FEEL
BETTER

"LOOK -- THE TIDAL WAVE OF ERADICATION WAVE ENCIRCLES THE GRAVEYARD, NOW -- AND IT'S CLOSING FAST!"

"THERE'S THE LAST LIVING ARCH-DUKE OF HELL -- BITTER TO THE END!"

CREMATOR!
KOBAL
COMMANDS --
LET US IN!

LADY
DEATH AND
YOU HAVE
FAILED HELL,
BLACK-SMITH!
NOW
THERE IS
HELL TO
PAY!

I'LL NEVER
BETRAY MY
LADY, OR CRAWL
LIKE CRYING
KOBAL!
WHAT
TO SEE WHY?
LOOK INTO MY
MEMORY!

"REMEMBER WHEN LADY DEATH
AND I OPPOSED YOU TOGETHER?
WHEN YOU WERE LUCIFER'S
UNKNOWING PUPPET?!"

CREMATOR!
I HAVE LEARNED
DESIRE EQUALS
POWER!

AND I
DESIRE THE
DEATH OF
MATTHIAS!

MY
MIND AGAINST
YOURS,
MATTHIAS!
I HATE
TO FIGHT AN
UNARMED
MAN -- BUT I'LL
INDULGE
YOU.

WHERE
WERE WE? Oh
YES, YOU WERE
ABOUT TO ADMIT
YOUR MISTRESS
ABANDONED
YOU!
SAY IT!
WE'LL BE
DESTROYED IN
A SECOND --
WHY NOT LIVE
FREE UNTIL
THEN?

"WHILE I HACKED
THROUGH YOUR
DEMONS, LADY
DEATH ADVANCED!"

THERE
SHE GOES,
LEAVING YOU
IN THE
DIRT!

"WRONG,
MATTHIAS!
WATCH!"

CREMATOR,
I WANT YOU TO
FOLLOW YOUR
CALLING!

DEMOLISH
OUR ENEMIES --
AS ONLY HELL'S
GUARDIAN
CAN!

"SHE ALWAYS GETS
THE MOST OUT OF
A SOLDIER!"

"LADY DEATH, THE
RECKONING #2"

YOUR
POINT, IF
YOU HAVE
ONE,
BRUTE.

ARRRGH!

BY
TRUSTING
HIM!

MI LADY!!
TELL ME
WHAT TO
DO!



YOU
WERE
TEMPTED!
I ALMOST
HAD
YOU!

IT WILL
BE *DELICIOUS*
TO SEE YOU
BETRAY YOUR
LADY!

WE ARE
FAR FROM
FINISHED, YOU
OBSTINATE
PILE OF
MEAT!

THE
ENDLESS
GRAVEYARD
AND I ARE
ONE, NOW!

AND
AS HELL
UNCREATES ITSELF
AT LAST, THE
ENDLESS GRAVEYARD
BECOMES YOUR
ENDLESS PRISON,
TOO!

GROWL!



IT'S...
TRUE!

HELL
IS GONE!
MY LADY'S
GRAVEYARD...
IS ADRIFT IN
AN ETERNAL
VOID!

IT'S SAID NOTHING
EVIL CAN PASS
HEAVEN'S GATE.

BUT FALLEN ANGEL
MALADY, IN UNHOLY
UNION WITH THE
SORCERESS LEVIATHA,
HAS...

FOR HEAVEN'S GATE
HAS BEEN CORRUPTED --
WITNESS!

Come, my
LOVE -- COME
to NEW LIFE!

LEVIATHA!
YOU CAN'T
JUST LET HIM
STORM HIS
WAY BACK!

STOP
interfering
with MY
WORK!

YOUR work?
you BITCH!

YOU
WOULDN'T
HAVE FOUND
THE PRINCE
WITHOUT
ME!

HIS
REINCARNATION
BY MY DESIGN WILL
BE MY ULTIMATE
EXPRESSION!
BUT HE MUST BE
CONTROLLED!

ARRGGH!

I TOLERATED you
FOLLOWING me here!
I found your
power USEFUL! but
I WON'T let you
RESTRAIN --

STUPID girl. Can
you CONTROL a
raging, savage LOVE?

ARRGGGH!

LADY DEATH KICKED
THE FATHER OF EVIL
THROUGH THE PURE
ENERGY OF HEAVEN'S
GATE.*

THE GATE'S PURITY
SHATTERED THE
UNWORTHY FIRST OF
THE FALLEN -- BUT
THAT CORRUPTED
THE GATE!

EACH OF THESE WOMEN
BELIEVE SHE WAS REMAKING
HER DARK LORD FOR
HERSELF. MALADY WANTED
TO USE HIM FOR ART.
LEVIATHA, FOR LOVE.

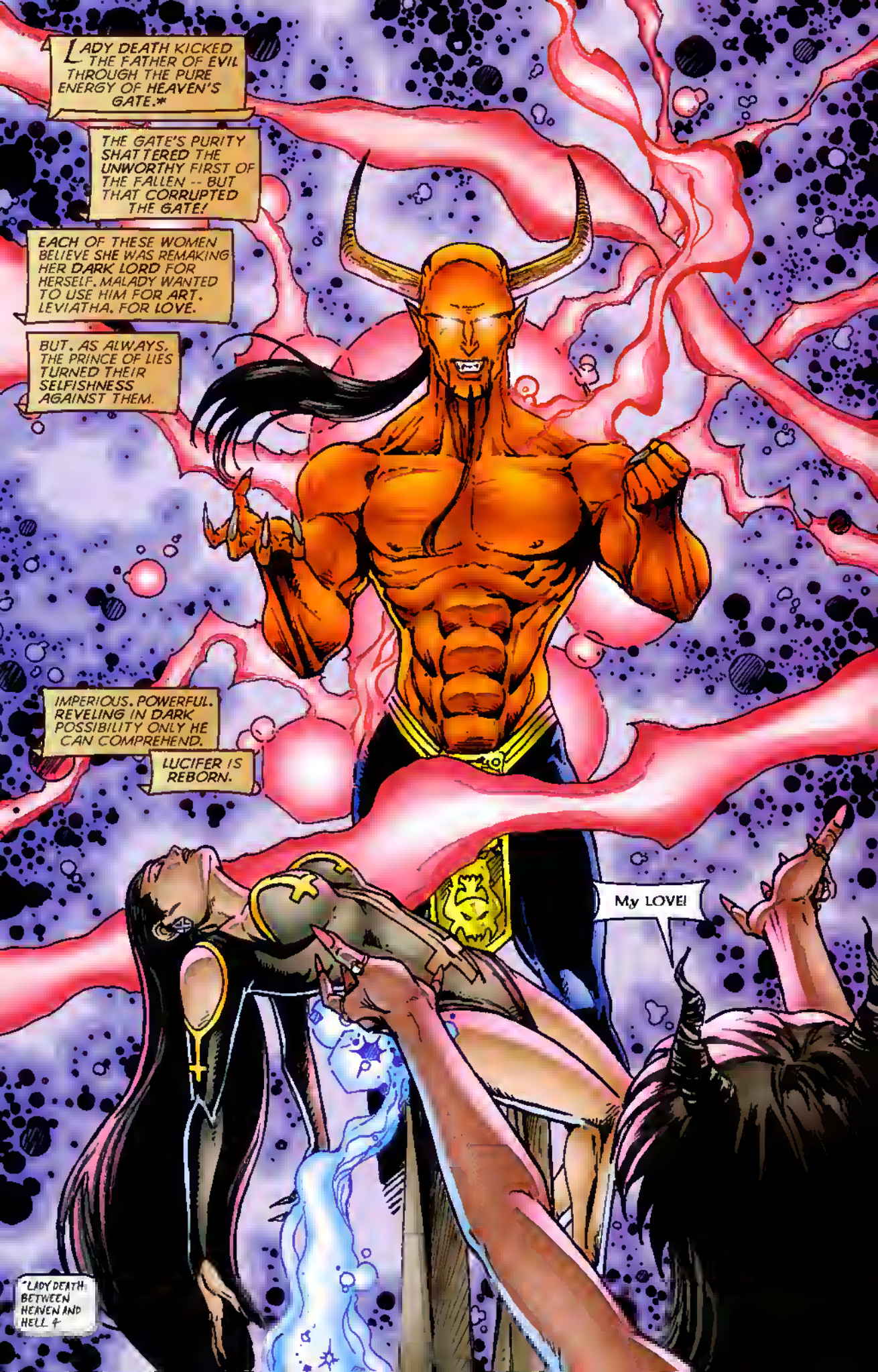
BUT, AS ALWAYS,
THE PRINCE OF LIES
TURNED THEIR
SELFISHNESS
AGAINST THEM.

IMPERIOUS, POWERFUL,
REVELING IN DARK
POSSIBILITY ONLY HE
CAN COMPREHEND.

LUCIFER IS
REBORN.

My LOVE!

*LADY DEATH:
BETWEEN
HEAVEN AND
HELL *



FLESH AND BLOOD
ONCE MORE, HELL'S
REBEL ANGEL LUXURIATES
IN ANTICIPATION.

Don't you
FEEL me?

My LOVE!

Nooooo!

My steadfast
LOVE saved you!

You need ME
more than I
need you! I know
the TRUTH!

YOU have been
living the biggest
LIE in CREATION.

What if I revealed
that you have
ALWAYS had the
same power your
CREATOR had? YES,
you can CREATE!

THIS CREATURE'S
NOISE MEANS
NOTHING.

NOW, let me
help you use
the pow --

NO! YOU CAN'T
RETURN TO
HELL! LISTEN!

THE LORD OF HELL
HAS REVENGE TO
SAVOR AND
WORLDS TO SHAKE!

Epilogue.

THANSDAEMONIUM

THAT'S IT,
NIGHTMARE!

THE PAIN OF WITHDRAWAL
IS TORTURE, BUT I CAN'T
FIND MY WAY ADDICTED
TO A DEMON SWORD!

Ohhh... THE PAIN GNAWS
ME EVEN SOONER
THAN EXPECTED.

BUT AT LEAST
I AM FREE TO
CHOSSE --

WAIT.

I
FEEL --

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE?

YOU DARE
STALK ME,
PURGATORI?

THEN
COME,
EMBRACE A
DEATH YOU
HAVE NEVER
KNOWN!

READ
PURGATORIUM #2
NOW ON SALE, FOR
**GODDESS
WAR!**
THEN, IN ONE MONTH, THE NEXT
LANDMARK LADY DEATH
STORY REVEALS THE CLIMAX OF
THE COVENANT!

Last Writes

Last Writes: 7645 E. Evans Rd. Suite 6 • Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Hey, Fiends! Last month, Brian Pulido put the word out—we need your meatiest letters to make this page worth printing! Last Rites can print what's written in the blood, literally or figuratively—but you got to open a vein, first! It's your dark soapbox, your party tomb, your chance to shout out what's happening for you. Like this reader.

DEAR DAVID AND CHAOS! CREW,

Thanx for giving me a reason to love reading comics again. I have some comments and questions I hope you can answer for me.

1. Any chance of seeing a Lady Demon or Leviatha mini-series sometime in the near future?

2. These are the names of actresses who I feel can portray Lady Death in a live action film: Hudson Leick (Callisto on Xena: Warrior Princess), Traci Lords (Profiler), Jeri Ryan (Star Trek: Voyager).

3. I've been listening to Deicide, Fear Factory, Korn, Marilyn Manson, Ministry, Nine Inch Nails, Sepultura, Six Feet Under, SnapCase, and White Zombie. Can you offer some suggestions while I read Lady Death: The Omen, etc.?

A Hellbound Fiend Fan
— Nichelle Laneen Jones

Thanx for giving us a reason to create comics again!!!

1. Beguiling Sorceress Leviatha and Lady Demon, the Poster Child for Sin, both figure prominently in the upcoming Interno! storyline, which begins with Lady Death #13, Nichelle. You didn't think they're going to let the new and improved Lucifer have all the nasty fun, do you?

2. Taking Lady Death, or any character that lives and

breathes vividly on paper, and casting her in the flesh—that's always good for a strange smile or two. Thanks for your suggestions—any additions or corrections, readers? Dig deep—how about some casting ideas that might initially surprise, but satisfy? Me, I always saw Lady Death played by state-of-the-art, pedal-to-the-metal, brutally elegant animation. What do you think?

3. I'm a rhythm fiend, always happy to talk music. I'll warn you, though, my playlist is warped with wide variety. If you like Korn, add Orgy, Limp Bizkit, and Two to your recent metal damage list. In a pop vein, I like Tom Waits, Iggy Pop, Ashley MacIsaac, Bjork, Turbonegro, Apocalyptica, Die Ärzte, Smashing Pumpkins, Garbage, and the Clash. While writing, though, I do a lot of 50s/60s jazz, rhythmic world music, and moody film scores. I got enough voices screamin' in my head already, know what I mean?

That's all the letters—are you writing one today?

I have blisters on my fingers from blazing through the text-writing chores for this month's Lady Death V Card Set. If you aren't already tracking down the cards for the insanely gorgeous art on the front, may I invite you to pay attention to the inspired madness on the back? Read the fine print, my little demons, because we dropped some storytelling landmines into it! Want to get inside 1999's Chaos! Armageddon, now? You'll find histories, myster-

ies, and prophecies—but only on the "backs of these cool cards! Don't hate me for it, but I had a devil of a good time teasing you.

Also, Unholy Nights! strikes this December. You screamed for dark comics you could share to with your fellow lost souls, children of the night, and lovers of the damned? Well, here you are—sick and twisted holiday tales in all three of our monthlies, and a Smiley Anti-Holiday special, too! Think of it as a public service. Seriously, though, I am proud of what we are putting into these "horror with soul" stories, and I hope you do share them. Marvel's rebooting all their titles to number one first issues that month and DC's killing Lois Lane, so wave that dirty money under your comic retail counterboy's face now so he doesn't forget Unholy Nights!

See what happens when you don't write? You have to put up with my rant! Come on - we've even added an email address. You can kick back a few comments without ever having to leave the crypt!

Next Issue

The climax. Lucifer makes the new rules of the new game real easy for you to understand. Hope and Michael are in way over their heads. Lady Death kicks ass. The Covenant transforms Chaos! as we know it.



— David Quinn





the IMPENDING CHAOS! #13



YOUR MONTHLY NEWS SOURCE ON ALL THINGS CHAOS! - OCTOBER '98

From the Crypt

Architects of Armageddon Part Three: The Return

Brian Pulido, Philip Nutman, and I designed our plot summit as a vision quest—a physical trek for the body made to stimulate a parallel journey of discovery for the mind and soul. A fun, but deadly serious, three-day walk through the wide-ski Arizona desert, away from the noise, to talk storytelling. We took a hike to discover and design the 48 self-contained stories which culminate in CHAOS! ARMAGEDDON in December 1999! It's just what it sounds like—the end of the world for Lady Death, Evil Ernie, Chastity, Purgatori, and all of us. A true conclusion. A comics storytelling event that counts. An end point, firmly rooted in past continuity, that opens up our dangerous future!

If you've been with me the last two months, you know. By sunset on the first day, the vision quest had kicked in to the strangest brainstorm we ever got caught in. To say we left civilization's inhibitions at the office would be an understatement.

Brian, possessed by the spirit of the Trickster God, was sprinting toward distant hills. With insane jog, he screamed that he could see the nukes flying. He had become anarchy, a laughing, dancing prophet of the Big Bang. Running like a coyote, he rarely touched ground.

Philip was writhing on the sand—not in pain, but in some kind of dark pleasure. He didn't seem to care about his snakebite anymore. His voice had dropped three octaves. His eyes were black, wet, and alive. Crawling lightning fast, he was a Snake zig-zagging after the small black thing that had gotten its teeth into his heel. He rumbled something ominous: the Gift of Life, he promised, would be revealed at the end of everything.

I saw my companions through a blur. Dry desert air warped around me. I was burning. I was on fire. There was no smoke, no bitter sweet smell of cooked flesh—but like the old Shaman we met had called me, I had become the Burning Man. I saw everything through Armageddon eyes; the sky was black with raging warriors, and everything was on fire.

"Something tells me this is a bad time to spin up!" I shouted. A quarter mile away, Brian's head whipped in an animal fast three quarter turn. His eyes met mine. "Cool!" And in a flash, he was back at my side.

"We dug into our story by asking questions," Brian suggested through a smile edging into laughter. "Now Armageddon is ripping us back with answers—Snake, what do you see?"

Phil has stopped crawling, but in his eyes, you could still see the Snake. "The Earth will rebel against destruction and poisons, but it will be too late. But the Animals know that there is a monster living among me with the power to create—if he can he discover this in time."

Trickster God Brian grinned, "Know what I see? I see where it

all ends, the very last moment—it's not what I used to think it would be, but there it is! Hope, Heaven, and Hell can't stop it, not even Lady Death! What a trip! What a revelation!"

He was laughing. I wasn't. I was losing the perspective that I was controlling the story. The story, you might say, was starting to tell me. "I knew about Purgatori's final assault—that was the first image that came to me," I said, through a veil of fire. "But I didn't see the terrible, terrible betrayal!"

Phil yelled, "What? What betrayal?"

"No, it's too tragic! It's wrong!" I screamed. And in the moment I denied the vision I was seeing, the fire that had not consumed me began to burn! I really was a Burning Man!

"What would the Diva of Death say, David?" Brian demanded? "Desire equals power? You have the desire. You see the vision. Now don't fight it!"

He was right. I hated to look at that tragic betrayal. It's too terrible to tell you here, you'd have to see it for yourself, when the Armageddon Clock approaches Midnight. But when I saw it through, I plunged deep into being the fire again. I stopped burning.

For the next two days, we were outside of time, the Trickster God, the Snake, and the Burning Man. When we resisted Armageddon's story, an anarchic creative madness threatened to kill us. When we let the story in, taking control of it like Benjamin Franklin's lightning in a bottle, we felt intense pleasure—and power. Finally, we slept. Three bodies circled around a bonfire. In our dreams, we planted seeds of what will follow the End of Everything—the Revelations!

We touched something wild out there in the desert. We met with it, grappled with it, saw through its eyes, and snaggled it for our own use. I can't tell you more about the visions. We scratched out piles of notes and sketches to help us return with that elixir, though. Now we're shaping that raw stuff. Blood alchemy, like I said.

You might be asking, "Is this true? Where is he being literal, and where is he being symbolic?" After a vision quest like we had, who the hell knows? Kenneth Burke wrote, "Stories are equipment for living." We lived the stories once in the desert. We'll live them a second time in our studios, a third, with our artists and the Chaos! team. Then you will take the trip—and the stories will really live. Then you can tell me what's fact and what's fiction. The stories—the truth is in there.

Till the end of the world.

—David Quinn

The Low Down

Fiend Bash Tickets Available

While last year's near-legendary Fiend Bash is still mentioned with awe and reverence, this year's is gearing up to top it! The Bash kicks off at Chaos! HQ on Saturday, October 24th with an open house from 11:00 - 2:00 p.m. in the Chaos! Studios in lovely Scottsdale, allowing our delightful fiends to see where darkness really dwells. The party moves from the office to Phoenix's Castles & Coasters, where the Fiend Awards and the annual Fiend Costume Contest will follow dinner, with the costume winner being drawn into an upcoming Chaos! comic. After the costume contest, a silent auction, benefiting the Phoenix Children's Hospital will be held, followed by a concert by Chaos! live band, Doodad. And if that wasn't enough, starting at 11:00 until 1:00 a.m., Castles & Coasters closes to the general public, and Chaos! fiends are let loose in the park with unlimited rides! So much fun, it should be criminal. So what are you waiting for bunkie? Grab that facepaint, gunk down those black curtains, and we'll see you at Fiend Bash '98!

Chaos! Makes News Again

Chaos! was recently mentioned in Brand Week, Media Age, Promo and Newsweek magazines. Little by little, the world is coming to Chaos! Can a mention in the New York Times be far behind?

Chaos! Gets Strange

Brian Pulido, President of Chaos! recently announced that Chaos! has signed a deal with Shooting Gallery Productions to produce a 12-page promo comic of Dee Snider's film, Strangeland. The four and a half inch by four and a half inch book will feature a synopsis of Strangeland, a parallel short story, tour dates of the Strangeland Tour made up of bands appearing on the soundtrack, along with interviews with the film's star, Dee Snider, and tons of other cool stuff. This book will be circulating in the music and film communities, so be sure to grab it when you see it—it's going to disappear fast!

Chaos! and Product Placement

Recently, Chaos! announced that it would be accepting product placement advertisements in its comic books. What that means is you're going to see brand-name products such as cars, movies, shoes and the like mentioned in the comics. Don't worry, though—Lady Death won't be wearing a Nike T-shirt anytime soon. The fiends you know and love are still in the drivers' seats of the books, not some Park Avenue suits. The product placements will be organic, and used to enhance the story, not change or detract from the Cosmos as you know it. First up, check out the film Strangeland in Evil Ernie #5, on sale in October!

Twelve Inches of Death

As a follow-up to the phenomenally successful Lady Death action figure, Moore Action Collectibles is releasing a 12-inch version of the figure next month. The 12-inch version comes complete with a cloth cape and special collector's packaging for \$24.95. If you gotta have it all, be sure to nab the Diamond exclusive metallic blue 12 inch Lady Death coming in December! Remember how hard it was to find the original action figures—so plan on finding these before they become a memory too!

Deodato Jr.: the Return

Brazilian penning legend Mike Deodato Jr. is preparing for his return to the title he recently set ablaze with his pencils: *Lady Death*! Deodato's incredibly emotional and powerful pencil work will grace the pages of Lady Death #13-#16. We can't say anything about the details of the story just yet, but remember how Deodato's work on *The Harrowing* stunned you? You may want to sit down for these issues—titled "Inferno" *The Lady Death* issues are the first arm of the Armageddon—the end of it all!

Undertaker Countdown to Chaos!

If you can't stand the wait until the ongoing Undertaker series based on one of the WWF's deadliest stars kicks off in spring, be sure to check out the Undertaker Preview book shipping in January. The preview will feature tons of inside information, along with interviews with writer Beau Smith and artist Rob Brown who promise to spill their guts about what's coming up in the series, how the Undertaker will deal with his brother Kane and Paul Bearer, as well as the identity of the mysterious and demented Embalmer. Miss it not.

Chaotic Christmas!

Thanks to Wizard and Moore Creations, you're going to have the coolest Christmas tree around with the Lady Death Christmas ornament. A reproduction of the phenomenally successful Lady Death action figure, the ornament will feature a reversible red and green cape. She can be yours for \$24.95 through the offer in this month's Wizard, so be sure to check it out. It's what every well-dressed Chaos! Christmas tree will be wearing this year.

Gone Hollywood Again

They couldn't hide from us! Word on the streets of L.A. is that Chaos! head honcho Brian Pulido and Eternal Entertainment's Adam Goldfine were recently hopping around Hollywood again. What does this mean? Two things—one, things are heating up and studio guys are showing a lot of interest in the Chaos! Cosmos; and two—since these guys hang in Hollywood so much, every second word they say is "baby!" Know what I mean, baby?

Comics Most Dangerous Men

He's battled through thousands, but can even Evil Ernie stand the

onslaught of Hart Fisher? We'll all find out together starting in *Evil Ernie* #8, as the author of the smash *Dead King* miniseries comes over to spread some mayhem Broadway style! Fisher's stint with the undead's deadliest teen begins with *Evil Ernie* #8 and runs through #13, and like we've said before, nothing will ever be the same again!

Lady Death and Chastity Quake Style

The Lady Death multiplayer plug-in modula for Quake II is available free for downloading at the Chaos! Comics website. The module, designed by Paul Steed, Jade Moffat, and Alan Yen features Lady Death in her death-dealing glory as one of the players in a multiplayer game. Talk about your killer app! Also, be sure to check the Chaos! Website again and again this month—the Chastity multiplayer Quake II plug-in is coming right up. Unfortunately, though, the modules don't come with a custom sound modula—that's where you come in, dear fiend.

Chaos!/Quake II Contest Going Strong

We've been swamped with entries for Chaos!-inspired Quake II levels since the contest (sponsored by id Software, 3Dfx Interactive, and Activision) kicked off last month. Homemade levels starring your favorite Chaos! Characters have been keeping us all up until the wee hours, hunched over our computers, with Chaos!/Quake II levels reflected on our glazed eyes. You'd think we have enough, right? Never! That's right, keep sending levels, sound packs, character models, anything and everything that's Chaos and Quake II related. We got a room full of loot that'll make it worth your while. Check the website for all the details.

Wizard Bone Supernatural

Be sure to pick up this month's Wizard #88 with a shot to win original art from the Supernaturals along with Supernaturals #1-#4 autographed by the big guy himself, Brian Pulido. Remember—if ya don't enter, ya can't win!

Climbing the Charts

According to Diamond Distribution, Chaos! Was the number 6 comic book publisher for the month of August 1998. Hey, New York guys? That's our breath you feel on the back of your neck.

Spencers—Where Chaos! Shops

Just a reminder superfiends! Necessary Chaos! gear like character T-shirts, posters, and hats are available at your local Spencers, so go on in and pick them up. Buy some for a fiend friend too! Tell 'em Ernie sent ya!

The Chaos! To Come Checklist

Enjoy life. Read comics more often! After all, who among us can get through the week without a certain amount of Chaos!? Be the first on your block to own the complete set of Chaos! Comics.

October '98

- Lady Death #10 \$2.95
- Evil Ernie #5 \$2.95
- Purgatori Monthly #2 \$2.95
- Chastity: Rocked #1 (of 4) \$2.95
- Supernaturals #1 (of 4)
- Supernaturals #2 (of 4)
- Supernaturals #3 (of 4)
- Supernaturals #4 (of 4)

November '98

- Purgatori #3 \$2.95
- Lady Death #11 \$2.95
- Evil Ernie #6 \$2.95
- Cremator #1 (OF 5) \$2.95
- Chastity: Rocked #2 (OF 4) \$2.95

December '98

- Purgatori #4 \$2.95
- Lady Death #12 \$2.95
- Evil Ernie #7 \$2.95
- Cremator #2 (OF 5) \$2.95
- Chastity: Rocked #3 (OF 4) \$2.95
- Smiley X-Mas \$2.95

FIEND ALERT

Notice Chaos! Comics selling out quickly? Want your Chaos! comics? LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! Pre-order Chaos! Comics at your local comic shop—or ask them to reserve you copies! New Policy—We print to order. No over runs. DON'T MISS OUT!

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